

## NPS: Challenge Cost Share Projects FY 2015



### Scholarship for Low-Income Children to Experience Environmental Education

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Almost 200 low-income youth attend the residential environmental education programs at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, located on 500 acres in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The four-day, three-night program introduces children to the natural world and national parks, while promoting project-based learning. Scholarships are awarded to youth, many from low-income urban areas, to help offset the cost of the program.

**Park:** Cuyahoga Valley National Park



### Student Citizen Scientists Help Find the "Lost Carnivores"

Friends of Saguaro National Park

Middle and high school students become citizen scientists by using remote cameras to track wildlife. This important data helps determine the status of small carnivore species,

including four rare species (badger, kit fox, ringtail and hooded skunk) and four species that may be locally extinct (raccoon, hognosed skunk, striped skunk and Western spotted skunk). Project funds support hiring project interns, help purchase tablet computers for data visualization in the field and provide transportation to the park for participants.

**Park:** Saguaro National Park



### Groundwork Jacksonville Timucuan Green Team

Groundwork USA

The Groundwork Jacksonville Timucuan Green Team is a year-round pilot program providing job training, environmental education and recreation opportunities for youth in an economically and environmentally challenged urban neighborhoods in Jacksonville, Florida. The Green Team champions community service projects that restore and conserve community assets and increase awareness of and access to national park sites and programs.

**Park:** Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve/Fort Caroline National Memorial



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### Youth Interns: Building Skills and Park Support

Great Smoky Mountains Association

Through this project, college interns are engaged in field interpretation and environmental education. They assist park staff with presenting environmental education programs to schools and summer Junior Ranger programs to children. Interns also provide roving interpretation and information to the public on trails and heavily visited areas in the park, present public interpretive programs and support park staff in two park visitor centers.

**Park:** Great Smoky Mountains National Park



### Greening the Last Mile

Groundwork Richmond

Green Team youth are reaching out to the community to collaborate on a new community-designed park. They are also bettering their community by installing murals, planting trees, cleaning up the surrounding area and working with nearby national parks on service learning projects. As an added benefit, participants have the opportunity to enjoy educational and recreational kayaking programs with San Francisco Maritime National Park.

**Park:** Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Site/Lassen Volcanic National Park



### Northwest Indiana Mighty Urban Wilderness Paddle

Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, Inc.

Despite having a National Park at their front doors, many community members in Northwest Indiana fail to recognize the close-to-home recreation available in their urban setting. Through this project's 22 days of service, almost 4,000 underserved students and more than 1,000 members of the public will learn more about their natural resources through paddling experiences and educational stations provided by the National Park Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and many others. Hands-on education will relay messages, such as caring for the environment, the importance of healthy waterways and how to find recreation near your home.

**Park:** Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



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### Innovation Workshop

National Park and Conservation Association

This project supported an Innovation Workshop at Gateway National Recreation Area that brought together thought leaders to explore how to help New York City students deepen their engagement with parks and the outdoors. A follow up event, the Collaboration Clinic, built on the themes from the first event, brought in new partners and gave participants the opportunity to refine specific project ideas.

**Park: National Parks of New York Harbor**



### New Mexico Health Care Takes On Diabetes

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This project is rolling out the Park Prescriptions programs in fourth grade physical education classes in elementary schools across New Mexico. Park Prescriptions provides

convenient active choices toward healthy behaviors to improve overall health.

**Park: Petroglyph National Monument**



### A Strategic Approach to Filling the Gaps on the North Country Trail

North Country Trail Association

Through this project, the North Country Trail Association and the state of Michigan is developing strategic partnerships with land trusts, private landowners, state and federal agencies and local communities that solidify the permanence and prominence of the North Country Trail in Michigan. Funds from the project are enabling the hire of a State Trail Coordinator to successfully build a strong network of supporters.

**Park: North Country National Scenic Trail**



### Comprehensive Stewardship on the Missisquoi Wild and Scenic River



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### Northern Forest Canoe Trail Inc.

This project improves the water quality of the Missisquoi River and increases human ties to the water. The funds help support stewardship projects, including the installation of a river access ramp, a four-sided interpretive panel and ten recreational way-finding signs. The Canoe Trail is also collaborating with key watershed groups to implement the Missisquoi Speaker Series, Missisquoi Paddle-Peddle Race and a National Trails Day event. Finally, a youth trip will take 12 local youth on a five-day paddle trip down the river to explore their local resources and improve their paddling skills.

**Park:** Missisquoi River Wild & Scenic River



### Lake Mohave Learning Adventures

#### Outside Las Vegas Foundation

Partners Outside Las Vegas Foundation, the National Park Service and Lower Colorado River Water Trail Alliance are providing experiential educational opportunities for 200 Southern Nevada YMCA youth. This project expands a pre-existing relationship between the Outside Las Vegas Foundation and YMCA to include four field trips to the new Black Canyon Water Trail and proposed Lake Mohave Water Trail.

**Park:** Lake Mead National Recreation Area



### Fostering Futures in Conservation

#### Orphan Foundation of America

This project engages young people who are either currently in foster care or formerly involved with the child welfare system. Participants create a series of ten short videos that introduce other teenagers in foster care and their foster families to the great outdoors as a place to play, learn, serve and work. Volunteers work with the foster youth to create the videos as they explore the national parks and urban green spaces of Washington, DC and discover the many career options within the National Park Service and the field of conservation. Youth participants gain video production and outdoor photography skills while encouraging young people in care and their foster families to head outside for learning, well-being and fun.

**Park:** National Mall and Memorial Parks



### T3 Acadia Rendezvous and Appalachian Trail Adventure

#### Teens to Trails

This project introduced 200 Maine teens to the National Park Service through two weekends of outdoor adventure. The first weekend, Appalachian Trail Adventure, gathered multiple outing clubs – and more than 100 youth -- from all

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over the sate for a weekend of outdoor recreation. The Acadia Rendezvous allowed free entry into Acadia National Park for all participants, regardless of age, and fostered peer-to-peer exchange.

**Park:** Appalachian National Scenic Trail/Acadia National Park



### Bonneville Shoreline Trail Urban Ranger Program

University of Utah

This youth-focused trail ambassador program, run by university volunteers, places two youth ambassadors on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to greet trail users and provide visitor information. Ambassadors engage 200 adults and 100 youth in an urban environment, connect people to the outdoors and provide information about public lands and the 2016 NPS Centennial.

**Park:** Utah National Historic Trails



### Philadelphia Canoemobile National Park Tour

Wilderness Inquiry

The Canoemobile engages as many as 750 urban youth in paddling experiences in or near their local National Parks over a five-day tour. This tour in the Philadelphia area is part of a larger 16-day tour of cities along the Lower Delaware River and its tributaries, in which the program will engage up to 3,000 youth and community members. The program is led by, coordinated and implemented by a team of ten young outdoor professionals.

**Park:** Philadelphia National Park Service Units: Valley Forge National Historical Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Independence National Historical Park



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### **Connecting Youth, Urban and New Audiences to Southern Utah Parks through Arts Afire**

Zion Natural History Association

This program introduces youth to their nearby National Parks through an “art in the park” event featuring children’s art and educational programs. In addition, a 10-day “Plein Air” event highlights local artists and a social media campaign promotes Cedar Breaks and provides art supplies and educational materials to classrooms. The event engages 20 junior high school volunteers and attracts up to 4,000 people, including 1,682 youth.

**Park:** Cedar Breaks National Monument